

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

# **EVOLVING APPROACHES TO REPRESENTING PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

Friday, February 2, 2007  
MCLE, Boston

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **MEDICATIONS FOR PSYCHOSIS, MOOD DISORDERS AND BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES**

Dr. Pinals will present the benefits and side effects of the most commonly used and newer psychiatric medications for psychosis, depression, and bipolar disorder as well as proper dosages and combinations. She will also cover medications most often administered for behavioral emergencies.

**Debra A. Pinals, M.D.**, Director, Forensic Psychiatry Education and Forensic Evaluation Services, Law and Psychiatry Program, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester. Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

10:15 **TREATMENT STRATEGIES FOR PERSONS WITH DUAL DIAGNOSIS**

Dr. Renner will discuss the clinical complexities involved in treating persons dually diagnosed with both substance abuse and mental health problems. He will talk about how these problems interact and affect the treatment of each. He will also present information on substance abuse treatment, in particular the importance of medications treatment (detoxification and anti-craving medications for alcoholism as well as long-term treatment with methadone and buprenorphine).

**John A. Renner, Jr., M.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine. Associate Chief of Psychiatry, Boston VA Healthcare System.

11:30 **ASSESSING 'DANGEROUSNESS TO SELF OR OTHERS' IN CIVIL CASES**

Dr. Bryant's session will address clinical assessment methods used to evaluate 'dangerousness to self or others' as applied to the legal standard in civil cases. She will outline the mental health professional's approach to these assessments and will consider strengths and weaknesses of these evaluations with respect to legal defense issues.

**Leisl M. Bryant, Ph.D.**, Private Practice, Massachusetts and New Hampshire

12:30 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30 **EMERGENCY ROOM TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

Dr. Fitzgerald will discuss criteria used to determine 'dangerousness' for §§12, 7 and 8 and competency to sign a conditional voluntary. She will also describe considerations that go into a decision to admit giving tips to advocates on how to impact that decision. Ms. Stefan will detail what can happen in emergency rooms to persons who present with physical and mental difficulties and offer legal theories to challenge procedures in systemic and individual cases. Mr. Trachtman's piece will focus on the creation of a peer program in the Emergency Room to improve the evaluation process.

**Anna L. Fitzgerald, M.D.**, Boston Medical Center. Clinical Instructor of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine.

**Susan Stefan, J.D.**, Staff Attorney, Center for Public Representation, Newton.

**Howard D. Trachtman, B.S., C.P.S.**, Executive Director, Boston Resource Center.

3:30 **PARTNERING WITH POLICE: THE FRAMINGHAM JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM**

Advocates, Inc. and the Framingham Police Department have developed the Framingham Jail Diversion Program to lead individuals with mental illness, substance abuse and other behavioral issues away from the criminal justice system and toward appropriate psychiatric, social and community-based services and have revolutionized the delivery of services to the mentally ill who come into contact with law enforcement.

**Sarah Abbot, M.A.**, Director and Clinical Responder, Framingham Jail Diversion Program.

**Craig W. Davis, M.A.**, Deputy Chief of Police, Framingham Police Department.

**Paul J. Shastany, B.A.**, Lieutenant, Framingham Police Department

**Brian E. Simoneau, J.D.**, Assistant to the Chief of Police, Framingham Police Department